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Americans for Prosperity – Virginia Supports Coles Hill Uranium Project Studies Find That Uranium Mining Is Safe and Can Create Over 1,000 Jobs

RICHMOND, VA – Americans for Prosperity – Virginia (AFP-VA) today announced its support for the Coles Hill uranium mine and mill. AFP-VA's announcement comes on the heels of an extensive, 18-month report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The NAS report confirms what previous state-sponsored studies have found, that regulations and best industry practices adopted by other U.S. states and countries such as Canada are protective of public health and the environment and ensure public safety in uranium mining communities.

“The Coles Hill project has the potential to turn around Pittsylvania County, one of the most economically-distressed parts of the Commonwealth,” says Audrey Jackson, State Director of AFP-VA. “It is time for Virginia to embrace safe, clean energy and the job-creating benefits it provides.”

A separate study commissioned by the Virginia Commission on Coal and Energy's Uranium Mining Subcommittee projects that the proposed mine will create upwards of 1,000 jobs, generate more than \$3 million a year in local and state taxes, and boost the economy by \$135 million to \$5 billion over 35 years. The unemployment rate in Pittsylvania County is 7.7 percent, over one percent higher than the average state unemployment rate of 6.4 percent.

The Coles Hill project is currently blocked by a state moratorium on uranium mining.

“Uranium mining is a win-win opportunity for Virginia and in particular, the residents of Pittsylvania County.” Audrey continued. “Given the findings of the recent reports, how could Virginia pass up this enormous opportunity for jobs and clean energy?”

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen-leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and intrusiveness of government is the best way to promote individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens to support restraining state and federal government growth and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP is more than 1.8 million activists strong, with activists in all 50 states. AFP has 34 state chapters and affiliates. More than 90,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial contribution to AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org

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